

INFLUENZA

Influenza is an acute respiratory disease caused by influenza type A or B viruses. Typical features of influenza include abrupt onset of fever, respiratory symptoms, such as cough, sore throat and coryza, and systemic symptoms, such as headache, muscle aches and fatigue. Since only influenza culture isolates are reportable, the true number of cases is likely to be underreported.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Virus isolation

Statistics on Confirmed Cases for 2003-2004 Season

Influenza season surveillance begins in October of one year and continues through May of the following year.

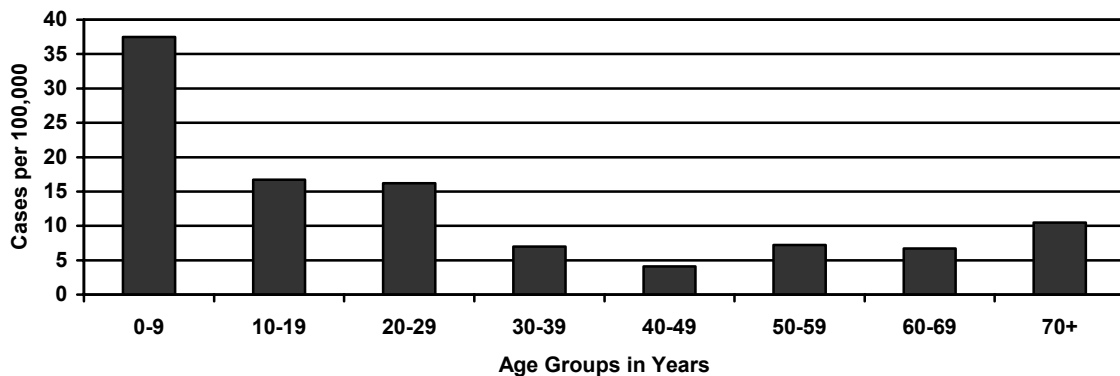
Epidemiology

Kentucky	2003-2004	Rate per 100,000
Cases	565	13.8

Cases by Gender

Female	289	13.8
Male	249	12.4
Unknown	13	

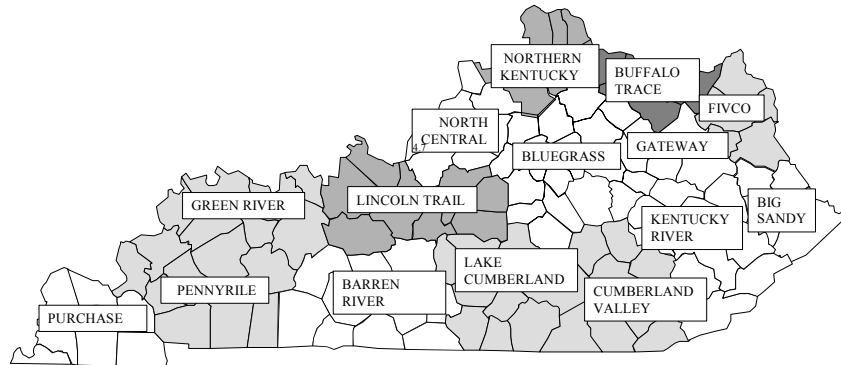
**Influenza, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky
2003-2004**



The cases per 100,000 for culture confirmed influenza in children under one year of age was 92.5. The rate dropped to 52.1 cases per 100,000 for children one to four years of age and to 15.0 for children five to nine years of age.

Influenza Incidence by District, Kentucky
2003-2004 Influenza Season
Cases per 100,000

0-10	
10-20	
20-30	
>30	



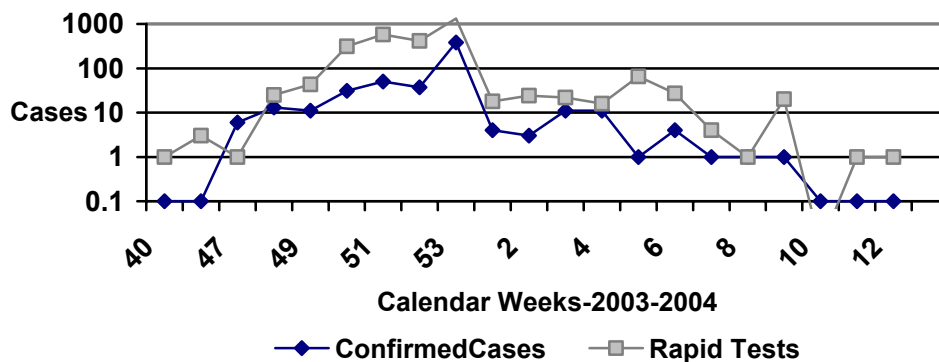
The Green River District had the highest incidence rate of 18.3 cases per 100,000. Henderson County reported 27 confirmed cases for an incidence of 60.2 cases per 100,000, while Webster County reported 6 cases for an incidence of 42.8 cases per 100,000.

Lincoln Trail District reported the next highest rate 13.4 cases per 100,000. Nelson County reported 24 culture confirmed cases, for a rate of 62.2 cases per 100,000, while Washington County reported 5 cases for an incidence of 4.3 cases per 100,000.

The Northern Kentucky District had 10.6 cases per 100,000. Boone and Campbell Counties both reported 16 cases for incidence rates of 17.7 and 18.1 cases per 100,000 respectively.

District	Rate per 100,000
Purchase	15.5
Pennyrile	5.1
Green River	1.0
Barren River	14.2
Lincoln Trail	22.2
North Central	13.3
Northern Kentucky	23.4
Buffalo Trace	50.0
Gateway	16.7
Fivco	0.7
Big Sandy	11.9
Kentucky River	14.2
Cumberland Valley	2.9
Lake Cumberland	9.2
Bluegrass	16.4

Influenza Incidence by Calendar Week for 2003-2004



Only viral culture isolates are included in the data for confirmed cases. Rapid flu testing data is collected for sentinel surveillance and comparison purposes. All positive rapid tests are put into the system as probable cases. The fluctuations of the numbers of positive rapid tests do tend to follow the pattern of the positive culture confirmed tests.

Only viral culture isolates are included in the data of this summary and may not reflect the actual disease incidence. The viral types cultured during **2003-2004** are as follows:

Type A	257
Type A H3N2	272
Type A H3N2 Panama	33
Type A H3N2 Korea	1
Type B	1
Unknown	1

Influenza isolate collection kits are available from the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Division of Laboratory Services and all health care providers are encouraged to submit samples.

Kentucky influenza surveillance begins in October of each year and continues through May of the following year. A network of sentinel physicians and local health departments participate in weekly influenza surveillance for influenza like illness that is reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Information also is obtained from nursing homes, schools, physician offices, and hospitals.